# CVPIDS MESSENGER,

OR,

A truſty Friend ſtored with ſundry ſorts of ſerious, witty, pleaſant, amorous, and delightfull Letters.

*What* Cupid *bluſhes to diſcover, Thus to write he learnes the Lover.*

Newly Written.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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frances wolfreston her book

# CVPIDS MESSENGER.

## DELIVERING SUNDRY excellent Letters:

A Letter inviting his friend to write to him.

THough the want of your sweet societie (my worthy friend) doe occasion me all griefe, yet it lies in you even by the often mission of your desired Letters, to mitigate that sorrow: And since the distance of place doth deny us our accustomed conference and old communication, let the passage and entercourse of our Letters supply that defect. Now our tongues cannot be heard, let us be frequent in our writing, and let not the change of places alter our minds. Therefore that you may not judge me neglectfull of our forepassed amity, or oblivious of our old friendship, I have tooke boldnesse to visit you with this Letter, and desire you to be no niggard in this kinde of friendly remembrance. I wish to you all prosperous fortunes as to my selfe, and continue my love to you with all sincerity. But least the prolixitie of my Letter grow to the length of an Oration, I set bounds to my writing, and remaine,

London, May the 20.1646.

Yours in boundlesse affection.

H.H,

The Answer.

A letter excusatory for not writing.

I Am affraid (judicious and kind sir) that it is with me as it is with that unfortunate Pilot who fals into the Gulfe of Scylla, while he endeavours to avoid the danger of Charybdis.

Incidit in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charibdim.

I confesse I have received Letters from you and seeking by not answering all this while to conceale the rudenesse of my unpolished pen from the deepe discerning eye of your judgement I doubt whether I have not made shipwrack of your good opinion, who haply imputes my silence unto my neglect of your love, or to my oblivion of your passed kindnesses: But I beseech you (kindest sir) to have thus much confidence in my disposition, that no confused chaos of cogitations, no fulnes of imployment, shall banish your remembrance out of my thoughts: though I be never so busie, I make answer to those I little regard, I dare scarce write to you (I am possessed with such a due reverence of your worthinesse) when I am most at leasure, Yet finding in my selfe how farre greater a crime it is to neglect duty, then to lay open my imperfection to a well wishing friend I have chosen the latter to make tender of the former: wishing that as you equallize grave Nestor in wisedome, so you might parallel him in the longaevitie of a happy life, I humbly surcease.

At your command,

New castle,
June 2. 1646.

E. K.

A Letter to a friend upon the death of his wife.

THe acquaintance I had with your vertuous wife (honeſt friend) makes me feele the ſenſe of her loſſe, for he that can be inſenſible of the loſſe of a good woman, is an alien to Nature, and a rebell to all morrall Vertues. I may truly ſay ſhe was praiſe-worthy for her many good parts, but they were but good proviſions for the world to come.

Give me leave to aske you why you mourne, I meane not why you mourne outwardly, which is an old cuſtom and a matter of formality, but why you doe mourne inwardly, which is true ſorrow: you will ſay (I ſay) for the loſſe of a companion. Indeed you doe well, for as a man was ſolitary before God gave him one, ſo ſhould he be after God takes her away: but there is a mean in all things. To be hard hearted is beaſt-like, to be tender is effeminate, to be ſenſible is manly. As for you, you cannot offer a more acceptable ſacrifice to the dead, then by turning the love you beare her into care of her childrē, to which I know you by nature ſo well inclined, that I need not to inſtruct, but onely remember you: but ſince wiſe men in ſudden accidents and in caſes concerning themſelves are ſometimes to ſeeke, I am bold to adviſe you now, though henceforth I would be glad to be adviſed by you: reſting,

Your ſervant.

Arthingworth,
July 7. 1646.

E. M.

A

A comfortable letter upon the loſſe of a Husband.

Madam,

THough none knowes the value of your loſſe, nor feeles the want ſo deeply as your ſelfe, yet I may take upon mee more feeling then another man, being for the love I beare you, more ſenſible of your misfortune and affliction: I my ſelfe have contributed many teares, and I confeſſe there is great allowance of griefe for good wives for the fatall departure of worthy husbands, but you were better forget the dead then the living, (your daughters I meane) to whom (I am opinionated) you would not wiſh ſo ſad an increaſe as your death would bring them, which, by this your courſe of macerating ſorrow is too much haſtened. O let not your vertue of patience die before you, but ſo magnanimouſly behave your ſelfe in your troubles, that your acquaintance may finde more cauſe to commend you, then to adviſe you. Madam I beſeech you hold me to be

Your Honours friend.

Arthingworth. W. R.
July 29. 1646.

## A Letter of griefe for his friends abſence.

OF ſuch comfortable uſe is the familiarity of a ſweet companion, that thoſe houres of our life ſeeme moſt happy which are paſſed away in the ſociety of a friend: If we take a journey, his company is inſtead of a Coach, there's not a thought, not a word of the tediouſneſſe of the way: If we abide at home, we imagine that the ſithe of Time too ſpeedily ſweepes away the houres. But on the contrary, needs muſt his life be melancholick, that hath no friend to ſweeten the ſlow tranſcurſion of Time. I wiſh my owne experience were not too true proofe hereof, for ſince your abſence, ſweeteſt friend, melancholly hath beene my concomitant, and your remembrance my greateſt comfort. And as the Turtle pines away after the loſſe of his mate, ſo ſince your departure, my boſome hath admitted no conſolation. I requeſt you by that intereſt which I have in your love, ſince in perſon I cannot, that I may ſee you in a Letter. Silence between abſent friends incurres the cenſure of an inofficious and incivill diſpoſition. But I know you will vindicate your ſelfe from a ſtaine of ſo abhorrent a nature. I reſt,

Farndon. Yours unremoveably,
Aug. 1646. I.C.

## A Letter for the entreaty of good will to a yong Gentlewoman.

THe long and conſiderate regard by which in deep contemplation I have eyed your moſt rare and ſingular vertues, joyned with ſo admirable beauty, and much

pleasing condition, grafted in your person, hath moved me good mistris among a number whom I know entirely to favour you, earnestly to love you, and therewith to offer my selfe vnto you. Now howbeit I may happily seeme in some eyes, the least in worthinesse of a number that dayly frequent you, yet may you vouchsafe in your owne private to reckon me with the greatest in willingnesse. Wherin, if a setled and immoveable affection towards you, if fervent and assured love, grounded upon the vndecaiable stay and prop of your vertues, if continuall, nay rather interminable vowes, in all perpetuity addicted vnto your services, if never ceasing and tormenting griefe vncertainely caried by a hazardous expectation, closed in the circle of your gracious conceit, whether to bring vnto the eares of my soule a sweet murmur of life, or severe sentence of a present death, may ought at all prevaile, either to move, entreat, sue, sollicite, or perswade you, I then am the man, who shrining in my inward thoughts the dignities of so worthy a creature, and prizing in deepest waight (though not to the vttermost value) the estimate of so incomparable a beauty have resolved living to honor you, and dying never to serve other but you, from whose delicate looks expecting no worse acceptance than may seeme answerable to so divine an excellency, I remaine,

Ianuary 20. 1646.

Your most passionate, loyall and perpetually devoted

R.F.

Her

Her answer.

THat men have skill, and are by sundrie commendable parts enabled to set forth their meanings there needeth no other testimony then your present writing, your eloquence is far beyond the reach of my poore wit, and the multiplicity of your prayses fitter for a poeticall goddesse, than to the erection of any such deesse. For my part I shall hold them as the fancies and toyes of men, issuing from the weakest of their humors, and how far my selfe can deserve, none better than my selfe can conceive. Being one of so good sort as you are, I could doe no lesse than write again unto you, the rather to satisfy the importunity of your messenger, wishing such a one to your lot, as might paragonize those excellencies you writ of, and answer every way to the substance of all those inestimable praises. So hoping your love and your writing, (as I take it) be best suted together.

Yours as farre as modesty wil, to answer your courtesies.

January 24. 1646.

E.B.

Another Letter to his miſtreſſe, deſiring her love.

GOod miſtris I.P. I am bold, though a ſtranger, to make theſe lines meſſengers at this preſent of my good meaning towards you: wherein I goe not about by pretence of a moſt entire and hearty good will, which I profeſſe to beare you, to make preſent ſurmiſe thereupon that on ſo bare an aſſertion you ſhould immediatly credit me, I prize your worthineſſe at a farre greater value, and weigh your good allowance ſo much, as I onely deſire by your favourable liking I may entreat to have acceſſe vnto you, not doubting but by being in your preſence, I ſhal ſo ſufficiently by apparent proofe maintaine the efficacy of that I now proteſt, and give you ſo good occaſion to deeme well of mee, as you ſhall have no reaſon to repent you, that vpon ſo honeſt and loving a requeſt you haue condeſcended to my entreaty: whoſe health and proſperity tendring as mine owne, I ſend you with my Letter a token of that great affection I beare you, which I pray you moſt heartily to accept of, and weare for me. And ever ſo doe continue,

yours if ſo you pleaſe to
accpet of me.

R. M.

Her anſwer.

SIr, your meſſage is to me as ſtrange as your ſelfe, who are vnto me a ſtranger, and what your good meaning vnto me is, I know not, for giving of credit vnto your aſſertion as you ſeeme not to challenge it, ſo was I never hitherto of my ſelfe ſoe haſty to doe it. haveing oftentimes beene taught, that of faireſt ſpeeches enſue the foulеſt actions:

ons: I cannot condemne your purpose, because I intend the best of your dealings, and howbeit I am in no point so restrained, but that in all reasonable sort that may be, any accesse may be granted, so when you shall by farther notice sufficiently make apparent that with modesty I may doe it, I shall be willing so far forth as my yeares and present being may minister occasion in any thankfull requital that may be, to yeeld my selfe unto you. Till which time I returne your token againe, and my hearty thankes unto you by this bearer.

Your friend as one unacquainted hitherto may be.

I.P.

## To a beauteous Lady upon a long affection.

Fairest of Ladyes:

HOw unpossible it is to keepe heat from fire, being the very nature of the element, I referre to your best judgment, and how neare a spirit of that nature, is the love of the heart kindled by the eye of beauty, I leave to your kindnesse to consider: since then such is the force of true love, as cannot be so smothered up in silence, but that it must burst out into words and actions, either to gaine comfort, or to suffer death, pardon (fairest of beauties) that Patient that in anguish seekes ease, and deny not your help in the excellency of the cure: your beauty hath wounded me, your excellent feature, your comely gesture, your sweet behaviour, have all concurred to make me unhappy unlesse your hand helpe me, and though the hurt be more felt than seene, yet it is not deadly if you be kinde: loath I am to be a begger without desert, and yet love will stoope a high spi-

rit, which, by the bond of due honour hath sworne me your true servant: in which Title, under heaven, shall bee my hearts greatest honour: and in the honour of whose favour, shall be the height of my worlds happinesse: in hope whereof, praying to the highest Power in the heavens to blesse you with all felicity on earth, I rest,

Yours devoted, and not
to be removed,

P.E.

Her answer.

SIr, how easie it is to quench a fire in his first kindling, experience can deliver: in the diversity of heats love being not the least that is like to doe much hurt, I wish you to take order with your wits, lest it bring your braine to an ill temper: kindnesse without care, may breed care without comfort. And therefore in placing of affection, be not too far from discretion, lest the perswasion of selfe-will bee an abuse of a better sense. If I had skill in Physicke, I would prescribe you helpe for your disease, but being a simple woman, you must have patience with my plainnesse, who not knowing how to doe you good, and unwilling to wish you hurt, leaving you to a better Paradise than in the torment of an idle passion, I rest in what I may.

Yours as kindly as
I finde cause.

A. N.

To

To a judicious Gentlewoman,

Deare friend:

THe forcible effect and conqueſt which your beauty hath wrought in my heart, conſtrained me in your kindnes to place the hope of my fortune: beſeeching you ſo to equall your outward excellence with an inward perfection, that faith may not have feare of favour, where humility ſhall guide the courſe of affection: I ſhould eſteeme my ſelfe the moſt vnhappy, if I ſhould give your eares any diſtaſte by my ſuit, but if it light within the line of your liking, it ſhal begin the garden of my paradiſe: ſo vnder heaven ſeeking no other ſtar, then the guide of your grace to lead my heart to the joy of my life: I reſt, never to reſt till I ever reſt.

From Madrid, Yours all or mine owne nothing at all.
C. E

Her anſwer,

I Am ſorry to think that a ſhadow of duſt ſhould have that force (in conceit) to rob reaſon of his contents: for beauty is but a ſhadow, which if your eye hath found in my face, let it goe no further, leſt it doe wrong to my will in hurting your heart: my inſide I hope is farre from diſgracing any good in my out ſide, and both altogether vnhappy, if they have beene any occaſion of evill: but leſt I may ſeeme diſcontent either at the matter or manner of your writing, I diſcharge you of the burthen of that feare, by the kind acceptation of your affection, which though I cannot anſwer as I would, yet as in good reaſon I may, I will think and conſider of, which if it fall out to your liking, be not vnfaithfull in your love, in hope wherof I reſt,

Yours wholly, if at all. A. B.

To

To a Lady, with whom he fell in love, ſeeing her at a ſolemne Triumph.

VVHen I ſaw you (excellent Lady) viewing the Triumphs, looking upon your eyes me thought Heaven opened to diſcover a greater glory, and Angels tylting there tooke from my judgement all things elſe done out of that bleſſed compaſſe: but mine amazment became my death, and my death muſt bee your triumph, for however the conflict appeared, your glaunces which were the wounding weapons, ſtrucke through my weake ſight, and ſlew my heart, though armed in the ſtrongeſt fort of my boſome: I am not ſo happy as to be a priſoner (for there were hope): but ſo infortunate to die in deſpaire, that to have the monument of my remembrance erected in the Temple of your pitty, is the vtmoſt aime my bliſſe looks to: the cruelty of faire ones hath pronounced my judgment, and ſaith it is impoſſible to affect where they have not ſeene: Oh ſee me in this ſorrowfull paper, (you faireſt of adored beauties) and let that ſight move affection, affection knowledge, knowledge pitty, and pitty that worke of the higheſt, which is onely to doe miracles, ſo ſhall crueltie give himſelfe the lie, prove you a goddeſſe, and make mee (the happieſt of men) a trumpet of your renowne and glory: My love is like your goodneſſe without parallel, my faith ſhall goe beyond that love, and my ſervice crown both with an infinite mercy. This is my ſacrifice, which if you accept (excellenteſt of faire beauties, and innobled with all rich perfections) I live, if otherwiſe, my joy is, I periſh by ſo excellent a creature,

From Dover prepared to ſuffer.
June 9. 1646. I. S.

Her

Her Answer.

SIr, he that of a light blow with the eye, makes a deadly wound of his heart, is either too unworthily faint, or much superstitious in the signes and planets: for mine owne part, my knowledge assures me I am free from any such malignant influence: I confesse a weake appetite unguarded with Iudgment may oft stumble and receive knockes, nay sometimes fall to utter ruine, and to give to that weakenesse the government of my fortune, were to rob my selfe of all good mens pitties. In my worst mischances, the ills I cause not, reason cannot blame mee, if I cure not: since what is without me nothing appertaines unto mee: but you will make my beauty guilty: poore nothing, how pitifully art thou slandered: which being a meere Chymera of imagination, hast not any thing in thee, but the strength of folly, and mans fancy, it is not a substance, for then it might be felt, let loose or restrained, it hath no certaine shape, for then all men would like one figure, nor hath it any abiding, for then it would ever be found in its owne mansion: it is not compounded of perfit colours, for then no man would doate on mixt deformities, nor doth it subsist of real vertues, for then no man would wed with the vitious: to conclude, it is nothing hath hurt you, and that nothing I send to cure your rashnesse, shall not breed my repentance: your love is too infinite, your faith too worthy, and your service too rich: a meaner proportion will guard safest a meane fortune, and so wishing your great sacrifice to a greater dietie, I rest,

Your best Counseller

Canterbury.

A.N.

To his mistris that was of wanton and of light carriage.

BEcause my vow of love (my sometimes dearely beloved mistris) hath made mee your friend, therefore the care of your honour shall make me your counseller: whether it come seasonable or no, examine your heart, that it comes freely and with a wholesome intent, truth be my witnesse. It is told me (mistris) that your actions are publickly noted for their contumelious levity, and your wanton lightnesse is so marked by your beholders, that contempt is become your onely companion: your apparell is like your minde, unconstant and uncomely, and drawes rather admiration than reverence: toyes are your studies, and vanities your practise, so that making your selfe a slave to pleasure, you have forgotten the violence of mis-fortune. If this be true (my dearely beloved mistris) then in this I must perish since living in you, your least fall wounds both mee and mine honour: I know you are faire and young, but if you cloath them here with vices, what will you weare in the grave but infamy? life runnes without feet, mis-fortune strikes without an alarme, and the glory of vanity breakes like a bubble, and leaves nothing behind but the print of disgraces: it is too much to be evill once, for the evill is never forgotten, and it is too little not to be ever good, since the smallest blot dashes all out of remembrance. Would I could as easily excuse you, as fame is apt to accuse you: pardon me if I be too bold in writing, it is urged by a too much boldnesse in action, the one made good, the other shall bee gracious beyond expression: till then give my pen leave to keepe my heart from breaking.

Farndon. Your grieved Friend

Ianuar. 1646. A.Z.

Her

Her anſwer.

A zeale that is kindled (my beſt ſeruant) with the falſe fire of mens reports is rather held a ſuperſtition then an honeſt deuotion: for it both wrongs truth, and wounds an innocent reputation: and thoſe light beleeuers, which build faith on ſuch weake grounds, deſerue nothing but ignominie and contempt: if now you accuſe my life in your abſence, where was your iudgment when I walkt in your preſence? O be not ſo falſe to the worth of your own truth, to ſay you could not ſee that which all the world hath diſcouered, or if you did, to be ſo blinde to affect a thing vnworthy: but it may be abſence hath begotten new thoughts thoſe thoughts new affection, and that affection muſt needs finde a new quarrell with old friendſhip: if it be ſo, your owne courſe lead you, I freely confeſſe I am not ſuch a begger that can weare raggs. ſuch a miſer that can eat roots, nor ſo ſubtill to ſpeak like a iugler, with a reed in my mouth, Truth I ſerue, freedome I loue, and plainneſſe is my condition. If theſe haue tafts you cannot reliſh, you muſt in ſome other ſoyle ſeek new comforts, for mine owne part I will be no bondſlaue to opinion, till I know it conſtant, nor no ſeruant of the time, till it be vncorrupt, and more honeſt. As for my life had it for euery feather a wing, and my fortune double ſo many hazards, yet will I bring the one to my grave with honour, and make the other aſhamed with my ſufferance, I reſt,

Maidſtone. Your injuryed miſtris.

May. 7. D.P.

A desperate Lover to his quondam mistris.

IT shall be vertue in you (fairest) to receive my despairs though you returne no comforts, and if in the reading you vouchsafe a sigh to my remembrance, it is a dirge that shall make me for ever sleepe in quiet, Despair long since gave me judgement, and obedience onely shall make my death patient: It is necessary I dye for you since fate denies me to live with you, for my selfe is such an interposition betwixt you and your glory, that my griefes would keepe much of your Sunne eclipsed: I know my wants, and that there is nothing either in my life or fortune to deserve you, onely an infinite desire, which but by death can never be lessened, then since all things sute with my despaires, be all delaies (with your love) ever far from me, and let the world onely remember this in my Epitaph, that it was not my folly, but your will, not my despaire but truth in obedience: but O this is that I should doe, not speake: and the musicke is more unfit for your eare, than your love for my heart: pardon my tell-tale sorrow, it rather speakes things fit to be done, then done, and will sooner crave the glory in with than in action, & yet the poison of disdaine is so violent, I know will waste me, and waste me it shall, for my comforts are already consumed: and in that consumption let all things but my memory turne to its first Chaos: And so live as happy as I unfortunate:

Onely in remembrance,

Northampton. Septemb. 6. F. I.

Her

Her anſwer.

HOw much I ſtand divided with the vnreaſonablenes of your affection, my diſtracted writing may witnes, wherein I can obſerve no order, becauſe nothing in your deſires holds good proportion, you bid me love, and will not heare when deſtiny denies it, and you ſeeke that rule from me which is quite taken out of my knowledge: (deare Sir) awaken up your firſt wiſedome, and tye your actions on providence, then ſhal you ſee I have leſſe power to draw on mine then you to with draw your affection. Will you make beauty ſuch a ſlave, that it muſt obey every gaze, or the poor owner ſo vnfortunate, that ſhe muſt be ſervile to the deſire of any wilfull longing, then ſo, how much ſafer were it to be foule and fortunate? But you will dye, woes mee that folly ſhould make you ſo impudent, to boaſt you dare doe a ſinne ſo damnable? But I know you will dye but as actors dye in one ſceane, and revive in the next, to make it more glorious, thus to dye I allow you, and to ſuch I will give a ſmile for pitty: to any other a charitable teare, to thinke that any Gentleman ſhould become a traitor to Nature. Laſtly, let me winn you by the love you boaſt of never hence forth to ſollicite me, for as no reliefe can come from ſuch vain labour, ſo nothing but great diſdaine will grow from my veration: So hopeing you will make that hope deſperate, which is without all hope of vertue, I reſt,

Your chaſt friend

Rowel. March 7. P. C.

A Letter of true kindneſſe.

IF dame Nature had beene pleaſed to have made my boſome tranſparent, your eyes ſhould ſee the ſecrets of my heart, which if it have any happineſſe in the world, it is in the hopes of your favour: but amazed with the admiration of your worth, I know not what to ſay of your worthineſſe, but onely this, that finding the due of your deſert exceeding my capacity in commendation, I will leave the excellency thereof to a more honourable invention, and thinke fortune enough favourable, if ſhe prefer my ſervice to your commandment: preſents I have none worth the ſending, but the heart of my love at your imployment, which being nothing more than what you will, I reſt, ever one and the ſame.

Your ſervant.
W.W.

Her anſwer.

IF your ſpeeches be led by your thoughts, it is needles to deſire a tranſparency in your boſome, for when as the heart and the tongue agree together, then mens proteſtations are followed with reall performance: words of admiration trouble diſcretion, in conſtruction, and eloquence in love hath not the beſt commendation, inventions are ready where fancy is ſtudious, but where wit is vertuous, there is will gracious: your preſent moſt worthy of all acceptance, cannot be better requited than thankfully remembred, and if conceits meet in a mutuall content, what comfort may follow, I leave to the heavens favour, and ſo I reſt.

Your friend.
A.W

A Letter of counsell from a discreet mother to her daughter newly marryed.

MY good daughter, thou art now going into the world and must leave to bee a childe, and learne to be a mother, and looke to a family, rather than to the entertainement of a friend, and yet both necessary, in their kindnes: finde the disposition of thy husband, and in any wise move not his impatience, let thy kindnesse bind his love, thy vertue his comfort, thy huswifry his commendations: avoid tatling Gossips, yet be kind to thy neighbours, and no stranger to thy kindred: be gentle to thy servants, and not over familiar: have an eye to thy doore, and a locke to thy chest: keepe a bit for a beggar, and a bone for a dogge: cherish the Bee that brings home hony, and make much of the Cocke that makes much of his Chickens, take heed abroad of the Kite, and within of the Rat: pray to God for his blessings on all thy proceedings, and have a religious care of thy modest government, and rather for charitie than praise give reliefe vnto the poore: if at any time thou hast need of any good I can doe thee, be assured whilst thou hast a mother thou hast a friend: so hoping in thy kindnesse, thou wilt take care of my counsell, beseeching God to blesse thee that I may ever have joy of thee, with my hearts love, to his tuition I leave thee.

Thy most loving mother

R.S.

Her answer.

MY good Mother, I have passed the yeares of a childe and know the care of a mother, & therfore for your kind advise for my carriage I thank you, and what benefit

I

I will make of your lessons, you shall finde in the fruit of my observation, I am but newly come into the world, and God knows when I shall goe out of it, and am yet scarce warme in my house, and therefore hardly know yet how to goe through it. For my husbands humour, if he alter not his nature, I doe not doubt but wee shall live as Doves, while care & kindnesse shall continue content: my servants shall finde me both a Mistresse and friend, my neighbours no stranger, & idle Gossips no companion. Thus in the duty of love, with thanks to your motherly care, in prayer to the Almighty to blesse me with his grace, and to live no longer than in his love and yours: I take my leave for this time, but rest during life,

Your most loving Daughter.
P.E.

A Letter in case of wrong supposed to bee committed.

Sir, your letter is more troublesome to my conceit, then savouring (as I am credibly led to thinke) of that your wonted most noble disposition vnto me, I have received. With what supportation and vnaccustomed griefe I have retained them, I referre to any one (guiltlesse accused and suspended from so high favours, as formerly by your bountie to me have beene performed) simply to be conjectured. Long was it ere I could satisfy my selfe by any accesse that might be, to proffer my selfe or these humbled Letters vnto you, yet nevertheless weighing how farre different those new occurrents were from those your ancient favors, I surmised with my selfe, that the instigation proceeded, solely from others, hardly perchance bearing those graces wherin

wherein I ſtood with you, and becomming thereupon my bitter enemies, the ſiniſter deviſe whereof ſtood upon mee wholly to overthrow or impugne. For which having no other or better meanes at this time than theſe ſubmiſſive lines, I purpoſe them unto you as ſollicitors of your former liking, confeſſing it in any waies I have erred unto you, as I will not utterly ſeclude my ſelfe from every error, it was but as a young man rather by ignorance than of malice any way to be intended: as touching any other objection, let me but crave pardon to have acceſſe unto your preſence, and then judge as you find me: two waies are only left: my accuſers to my face, or mine owne ſimplicity to cleare me. This is all I require, and ſo much I hope you will not deny me: wherewith reſting with due acknowledgment of that your former bountie, I humbly ſurceaſe, this 15. of December 1645.

Yours to command.

T.G.

A letter from a ſervant to his maſter.

SIR, my humble duty remembred unto you, and to my good miſtris. You may pleaſe to underſtand that I have diſpacht the buſineſſe unto Maſter C. for the money you ſent me for, and have given him an acquittance for the ſame, and according to your good remembrance unto me, I have bought for you twelve gallons of the beſt Sacke, and eighteene gallons of Claret, and fifteene yards of fine Broad-cloath, and thirtie Ells of fine Holland, all which I hope by Gods grace ſhall come unto your hands: I have ſent you alſo here incloſed your Bill of parcells, and their ſeverall prices.

I wrote formerly unto you for certaine commodities out of the Country, which I have now received by the Carier. Here is at this present small news worth the writing unto you: wherefore praying unto Almighty God for the health and prosperity of you and all yours, I humbly take my leave, and rest,

Your faithfull and ready servant to command,

I P.

An answer of a Letter for courtesie and favour received.

My good friend M. C. how much I am bound unto you for a multitude of favours, and specially for that you have made choice of me, as to write your kinde and friendly Letters in my behalfe, I can no other waies expresse, then to continue your affectionate poore friend, and will for ever acknowledge it, as of your great kindnes beyond any merit of mine owne, and as by duty I am bound, no day shall passe me that I will not pray to God for your health and prosperitie, and the redoubling of your dayes: beseeching you to excuse me in that in person I cannot doe or performe what I desire, by reason at this time some hast extraordinary will not permit me. I therefore most humbly take my leave of you, this 14. of May.

Your affectionate poore friend.

P. C.

The

The Fathers letter againſt the Sonne.

THe ſight of your Letters & meſſage receiued by your ſeruant, haue (good Couſin) bred to me in peruſing and harkning vnto the ſame no ſmall matter of diſquiet; not that your Letters or meſſages for themſelues are or haue beene at any time ill welcome to my hands, but in reſpect of him for whom they came, ſo filled haue I been long ſince with the euils by him committed. I am nothing ignorant that of meere loue and good will you framed your ſpeech vnto me in the behalfe of my vngracious Sonne, I haue brought him vp to a mans eſtate: how likewiſe I ſought both with maintenance & place of credit to continue him as a Gentleman. I placed him with a right godly and worſhipfull Knight Sir T.H. who for my ſake loued him, and I know tooke paines to reforme him. Complaints were infinite againſt him. This man could not be quiet for him, that mans ſeruants he miſuſed: this party he deceiued, and others highly wronged. Since which (too much to be reuealed) how ſtubbornly in mine owne houſe, how iniuriouſly amongſt mine owne people hath he behaued himſelfe. And becauſe it was againſt Chriſtmas, and I would not diſmiſſe him vnfurniſhed, I gaue him for himſelfe and his man, a couple of good Geldings, and twenty pound in his purſe: he was no ſooner gone twenty miles, but ſpent his money at Cards and Dice, pawnd his apparell, ſold his Geldings, and in the end comming to one of my Tenants to borrow money, which he denied to lend him, he fell vpon him and beat him. Thus (loving Couſin) you ſee in part his ill led life, and may thereby conceiue my griefe: ſending in the meane time my commendations and earneſt thanks for your care of my well being, to you and your bedfellow. This 20. Aug. 1645.

T.R.

The Anſwer.

I Have received your letter (my kind uncle) in anſwer to the laſt letter I ſent, which was the buſineſſe of your ſon, I am very ſorry that a gentleman of your gravity & knowledge in the world, and for the good eſtimation that the country hath of you, that maſter E C. your ſonne, ſhould deale ſo unkindly with you. I know your fatherly care of him from time to time, and how diligent, and not ſparing any coſt in bringing him up, & to place him with a Gentleman of the beſt rank in all the country: it was nobly done, yet withall you might (if ſo you pleaſe) doe well to conſider he is your owne ſonne, and if you looke into your owne youth, you ſhall finde theſe were your youthfull traines, and ſo much the more to be borne withall, and time and age will tame all theſe things in any ingenious and witty Gentleman I deſire you for my ſake retain him kindly into your favour this once more, for he hath (upon the reputation of a Gentleman) promiſed never to doe the like enormities, but live as a moſt dutifull and loving ſonne: and for the ſame I dare paſſe my credit. I pray you entertaine him reſpectively, and I will ever remaine,

Your loving kinſman.

T.F.

To

## To his mistris (quondam) having spent all his meanes upon her in prosperity, he being imprisoned she forsakes him.

IF my paper were made of the skins of croaking Toads, or speckled Adders, my inke of the blood of Scorpions, my pen pluckt from the Screech-owles wings, they were but instruments to write unto thee, thou art more venemous, more poisonous, more ominous, then the worst of these: for doe but descend into the depth of thy guilty conscience, and see with how many vowes, promises, and deepe protestations, nay millions of oathes hast thou sworn thy fidelitie to me, which one day will witnesse against thee. If I should speake with the voice of Mandrakes, or as loud as the noise of the Summer thunder, yet could I not proclaime unto the world the infinite basenesses, I being so firme and constant unto thee: when I swom in the golden floods of prosperitie, then wast thou (as often thou didst protest) firme and constant unto me: But when the water began to ebbe, and my ship run on ground, then (like thy selfe) thou forsookest me. At first thy love was as hot to me, as an Italian to a wench of fifteene, but when my gold was spent and consumed, then thy love grew as cold to me, as a Fishmongers fingers are in a great frost. Doe not thinke I write this unto thee to be a meanes to helpe me in this my great distresse and imprisonment: for know thou although my friends have forsaken me, nay though death, griefe, affliction, and all the miseries that possibly can befall a miserable man in this wretched world while he liveth here, and all these griefes doe every minute torment me, yet had I rather fall by their force, than rise by thy assistance: so hatefull, so grievous, so loathsome, so tedious, and so incomparable abominable is thy very name unto me.

Leprosie compared to thee, is all health: and all manner of infection but a flea-biting: and all manner of diseases, though they were fetcht from twenty Hospitalls, were but like the fit of an Ague: for thou art all Leprosie, all diseases, for neither thy body nor thy soule are free: thy bodie, from the disease of shame and disgrace of the world: nor thy soule free from the sickneſſe of sinne. God amend and pardon thee.

Once thy friend.

I.P.

To his friend lying long sicke.

My worthy friend Master Prince: though the distance of place be such, that we cannot heare one another, you in the center of the Kingdome (London) I at Yorke, yet you shall see me in my Letters: my tongue, my penne, my heart, are all your servants. You plainly perceive a long lingring sickneſſe will draw you to a long desired rest, where long your minde hath had his residence. You now perceive, Fame is but a smoak, metals but drosse, pleasure, but a pill of sugar. All these earthly delights if they were sound, how short they are, fleeting every day: they are but as a good day betwixt two Agues, or like Sodoms Apples, faire red outsides, being handled are blacke dust. I admire the faith of Moses, but presupposing his faith, I wonder not at his choice, that he preferred the affliction of Israel to the pleasures of Ægypt, and choose rather to eat the Lamb with sower herbs, then all their flesh-pots. That God hath given you a vertuous Wife, dutifull Children, wealth in abundance, an honest estate and a good repute amongst your neighbours, and the generall love of your country

country where you live, are favours that looke for thanks: Who would desire to live, that knowes his Saviour died? who can be a Christian and would not be like him? would you be happy and not die? indeed nature knowes not what she should have. Our friends of this world can neither abide us miserable in our stay, nor happy in our departure. What God hath given you on earth, is nothing to that he will give you in heaven: you are a stranger here: there at home. There Saints and Angells shall applaud you, there God himselfe will fill you with himselfe: have patience in all afflictions, and read the troubles of Job, and in that exercise your selfe both day and night, untill God shall either mend or end those your dayes on earth. To which great God and mercifull Lord I commit you, praying for your eternall rest.

Remaining your friend.

I.M.

## A Letter wherein is recommended to a Nobleman from his inferiour, the conditions and behaviour of a person.

MAy it please your Lordship, this gentleman the bearer hereof, with whom a long time I have been acquainted, & of his qualities and good behaviour have sound and large experiment, having been a good time a suter unto me, to move his preferment unto your Lordships service: I have now at last condescended unto, as well for that I know your Lordship to be now presently disfurnished of such a one, as also that there will hardly be preferred upon the sudden any one so meet as himselfe to supply that place. And thus much by your pardon and allowance dare I assure

sure unto me, that if it may please you in credit of my simple knowledge and opinion to imploy him, you shall finde that besides he is in parentage descended from such of whom I know your Lordship will very well account of, he is also learned, discreet, sober, wise, and moderate in all his actions, of great secresie, assured trust, and well governed in all companies. Finally, a man so meet and to this present turne so apt and necessary as I cannot easily imagine how you may be served better. Pleaseth your Lordship the rather, for the great good will I beare him, and humble duty I owe unto you, to accept and imploy, and account of him: I nothing doubt but your Lordship having by such meanes given credit to my choice, shall finde him such, as for whose good service, you shall have farther occasion to thinke well of me for him, Whereof nothing doubting I doe referre both him and my selfe, in all humblenes to your best and most favourable opinion. From my house in Arthingworth this 5. of June.

The Answer.

AFter my hearty commendations unto you. Sithence the receipt of your last letters and commendations of W.R. unto my service, I have had small occasion either to write or send unto you till this present: and for as much as upon your certain notice delivered unto me in favour of his preferment, I held my selfe so well assured in all things of his behaviour, as I doubted not thereupon to receive him into place of greatest fidelity. I have thought good hereby to let you understand, what great pleasure I have taken in his diligent attendance, assuring you, for many unexpected qualities, which I have proved to be in him, and that with so good affection, as that I intend not to omit any thing that may tend to his advancement. In beholding of him oftentimes, me thinks he many wayes doth resemble his father, whose sound truth I doe suppose might have been entertained

tertained with the best for his well deserving: this bearer shall informe you of two speciall causes concerning my affaires in the country, whom I do pray you to conferre with & to afford him your travell for his present dispatch, which I will not faile heartily to requite unto you. For your care had of my wants, and diligent supply of such a one, I doe many times thanke you. And even so I bid you heartily farewell.

From the Court this 5 of May 1646.

A merry Letter to his friend in London.

Heroicall spirit:

I Have received your Epistle of alacrity, & remaine much indebted to your kind heart for vouchsafing us poore country Swaines so much of the labour of your penne to deceive slow-footed time withall: Thankes unto the Almighty, I have had my health indifferent well since my comming downe, onely the separation of my second selfe hath been a continuall sicknesse unto me; to remedy which I have hitherto found out no better way then to call for a cup of Rubicular, to help to exhilarate and corrobarate my fatigated spirits. We Ruriculars are very barren of any novelty, worthy the presenting to your curious understanding, but doe presume out of the kindell of your affection that you that live at the wels head will be pleased to vouchsafe us your poore friends a report by your Letters, at least of such Exchange newes as passeth currant amongst you, which we shall take as a speciall favour from you, and study how to remunerate. We are at this present putting foot into the stirrop, and riding some dozen horse of us to a maritime coast, where there will be provided for us all the ra-

ties for fish the Sea can affoord, where I will not be unmindfull to remember all your healths in a full ocean. In the meane time recommending my love to my loving Sister your wife, with your worthy selfe and all your friends. I wish you all true happinesse suitable to a brave disposition, and will ever rest,

Your assured loving
Brother,
P.S.

A Letter gratulatory.

Good Mr. P.

I Am yet to learne the phrase & method how to write to so beneficient a friend as your selfe, to whom I stand oblig'd more by desert then I can answer with requitall, and more in affection then I am able to merit: a predicament it is into which I am easily and often (as it were) precipitated, and out of which to raise my selfe, fortune only hath disabled me, who if with your gifts she had supplied my wants, and given me competent wealth to the freedome of my will, my honest heart should not be debtor to the hand of any, nor should my disability curbe the scope of my affection: but seeing wishes are but vaine, I pray you accept these my lines as tokens of the remuneration of my thanks and the acknowledgement of the love of

Your humble servant.

D.P.

A Letter to his ſilent friend.

YOu are happily innocent (deareſt friend) what paine I am in, and with what unreſt I ſpend my irkeſome daies, through your parcimonieuſneſſe, and ſparing of a little inke and paper: Is it not enough that I am depriued of your ſight, but I muſt be unſaluted by your Letters: one of them alone doth too waightily oppreſſe me with ſorrow, and overwhelme my heart with diſquietneſſe. As place hath wrought a ſeparation betweene our bodies, will you permit alſo that a few daies abſence ſhall bury each others remembrance in the Lethean waves of oblivion? oh be not ſo injurious unto ſacred friendſhip, which is the greateſt joy allotted unto mortall men in all the univerſe: I have got the ſtart of you in writting, but I hope I ſhall not need to ſend you any more expoſtulatory Letters for our ſlackneſſe in this kinde. For the ſound ſtate of my bodie I am well, yet I cannot be ſaid to be perfitly well being (as I am) ſo ſollicitous for your welfare, and ſo ignorant of your health, who are Animæ dimidium meæ.

Farewell,

Animæ dimidium tuæ.

B.H.

The Anſwer, excuſing his not writing.

LEt the multitude of my buſineſſes and my want of bodily health, and debility, plead my excuſe with you for my remiſſenes in writting. The drift of theſe preſent lines is to apologize for that I writ to you no ſooner, and to enquire of your health and welfare. Compare not, nor do not thinke my love as little as my writting for I proteſt unfainedly, that if I may ſtead you in any kind nor if my meanes can procure any thing to make a clearer manifeſtation of

my manifold love, you shall assuredly find whensoever any occasion shall offer it selfe to you, to make triall what great interest you have in me and my best affection, I cease, ever resting

Yours to my power.

W.W.

A letter expostulatory for breach of promise.

IT had beene more honestly in you to have given me a speedy denyall, then not to performe what you so constantly promised me, for then you had not injuried me, because you had not owed me any thing. Promise is debt: for I yet hope you are none of the number of those men who thinke promises doe not binde them unto performance: this is my beliefe of you yet, it is in your power to make mee hold or alter my opinion. I onely desire thus much of you, if you will not doe me that good turne, yet leave doing me injury: feed me not with improficient words, but bid me not trust any longer to vaine hopes. In briefe, you shall much oblige me by doing that kindnesse, by omission thereof you shall make me muse at the lack of your fidelity and at your carelesnesse to incurre the report and infamy of a dishonest man.

Your injuried friend,
G.H.

To his friend falne to poverty.

IF your wealth had beene the foundation of my love, I should now cease to love, because you are no longer rich, but

but should I now so erre, I should shew my selfe to have beene unto you in your prosperity not a friend, but (like unto the rest, that have derelinquished you in your poverty) a meere flatterer: we see how during the Summer time the Swallowes flock to our houses, we may observe how Mice will be sure to get into the barne, that is replenished with corne; and while the pot hath any hony it is hard keeping the flies away: but rare is the friendship which fleets not in the probation time of adversity. Besides that poore comfort of adversity, pitty, I lend you the summe of twenty pounds, which so long make use of, till Time, the mother of mutations, encrease your store with a proportion able to make repaiment to

Your friend to his ability.

A.B.

A letter of a Gentlewoman to a Gentleman with whom she fell in love.

If ever I could wish my selfe unborne (most worthy sir) or my well being taken from me, I cal truth & my sometimes modesty to witnesse, it is now: not that I have found you, but that I am forced thus to seeke you. Call to mind (faire, and I hope vertuous Sir) some horrid and violent women, taken with the love of their owne fathers, as was Mirha: or incestuously pursuing their nearest brother, as was Biblis: so my affection will appeare more modest, and my suit more pardonable: I dearly love you, (and in so saying me thinks the gods blush to heare me,) who in the strictest lawes of desire is most worthy to be loved, whose vertues might enflame a stunie, and excep-

lentest qualities take the most retired: If I have (as I know too well I have) contrary to the nature and custome of Virgins, over-shot my selfe in my violent passions, pardon her that had rather die then make it knowne, yet chuseth rather to make it knowne, then not enjoy you so desired, and farre more worthy to be desired. If you were acquainted what afflictions I suffer in my discovery, yet fearing all will not serve, you will, I hope, rather incline to pitty, then disdaine: little will the death of a silly mayden availe the triumph of your beauty, and the overthrow of my credit lesse benefit your vertue. Raise me from the one by your love, and assure me of the other by your secresie: whilest I will ever remaine a most constant votaresse of all your perfections, blessing the parents that left behinde them such an issue.

Althrop. May 22. Never lesse her owne.

R.D.

His Answer.

HOw happy may I thinke my selfe (sweetest of creatures, and beautifullest of women) that having bound my selfe in the search and pursute of a jewell, have it now offered & given into my hands, farre above my expectation: far transcending my hopes: I accept it as lovingly, as you freely bestow it, and will account it no lesse deare and pretious, then if much time and long labour had beene the purchase of it, esteeming it a blessing throwne upon me, by the appointment of the most highest, and sutable to my happy desires. Nor shall I need to load my memory with those horrid examples, to give your love a freer and welcomer passage into the very depth of my love and choisest desires: to love we are made, and by love we are made: they onely are without being that have not the heavenly taste and enjoying

joying of it, I onely deny thoſe excellencies which you lay to my unguilty charge, it was the reflection of your owne worth (ſtrucken from me) which hath Narciſſus like ſo inamoured you it was your owne image ſhowne in my eies, which hath thus captivated you, which ſince you like in ſo dim and dull a myrror, I will cheriſh, and make much of it only for your ſake, that you may the perfectlier ſee your ſelfe, and the more love me: for your love, take all I am; for my ſecreſie, I will not breath it to my ſelfe how I attaine this happineſſe, but living and dying, reſt the true honourer and admirer of your worth and vertue,

Yours more then his owne.

H.H.

A letter from a Chapman in the Country to a Tradeſman in London.

My loving and kinde friend M. G. you have done me much wrong in detaining the wares I writ for: I have diſappointed ſome Gentlemen in relying upon you, whoſe cuſtome hath much advantaged me: my credit I hope will ever be above that value: and my dealing for much more yearely betweene us might without other circumſtances therein have ſatisfied you: I muſt tell you plaine, in the Country there are many good men, whoſe eſtates are knowne very ſufficient, which cannot raiſe money upon their credit in an inſtant: we want a common banke with us which might furniſh us ſuddenly and thorowly: Brokers trade not here, nor Uſurers take their place, but in Summer for their recreation: thinke, (friend) me an honeſt man, and ſo you have much cauſe to thinke: confident in which, though my eſtate were brittle, (as I thanke

thank God) I know it is ſure: you may be aſſured, I will never faile nor deceive you. I rove not beyond my compaſſe, neither make a ſure foundation out of other mens ruines, but content with a little, leaving a bleſſing to my children and good memory amongſt my neighbours. Let me hear from you concerning the cauſe of this breach, and a note of the reckoning betweene us, which I will make even, and rather reſt honeſt then rich.

Your true friend as you
ſhall uſe me.

I.G.

The Anſwer.

MAſter N. truly it much gribes me you were ſo diſappointed, and the negligence of my man went not away unpuniſhed, by whoſe default the Carrier went without them: beleeve me on my word, and I account my ſelfe happier in being a maſter of that, then in much riches, no feare of paiment, nor leaſt doubt of your eſtate was any hinderance to it: I have well knowne you by others, & have had ſo much experience of you my ſelfe, that you ſhall ſooner want occaſion for wares then I confidence to truſt you: your neighbours ſpeake much good of you, and all men that know you give you a faire report, which makes me happy both in your cuſtome and friendſhip. If ſiniſter occaſions ſhall at any time happen (as while we are here they are incident unto us) I ſhall rather pitty your fortunes then call in queſtion your faire dealings. And know we are all men accountable every inſtant for all our poſſeſſions. The Carrier this weeke brings theſe commodities, and better and more vendible you never had of me: and I verily beleeve the Gentlemen will think themſelves happily repaid in the ſtay, with the exceeding goodnes & laſtingnes of the wares.

For

For your reckonings, at more leisure I will peruse & send them, in whose place receive my kinde commendations, and entreaty for my mans careleſneſſe, I bid you most heartily farewell.

Your friend as you know.

I.G.

A Letter of thankfulneſſe for kindneſſe ſhewed to his Sonne.

SIR, the favours you have already done me, are of ſuch effect and merit, that I ſhall never be at quiet untill I have made ſome requitall of them. I am aſhamed you ſhould be thus continually troubled with a ſonne of mine, whom I have charged to obey you in all things as my ſelf, and I pray you doe as much as have a carefull hand over him, as if you were his father, or he your onely child: I kindly and heartily thanke you for the apparell you have made him lately, which is decent, comely, and profitable, and the money you have paid for him, you may accommodate him with the reſt if you thinke it fitting: for my part I give you all power and authority over him, ſeeing you are pleaſed to take the trouble upon you. So wiſhing but to meet with ſome good occaſion that may lye in my poore power, to acknowledge how much I am beholding unto you, I for this time commit you to the protection of the Almighty, Reſting

Your aſſured loving friend.

D.B.

The Answer.

MAster B. I have received your Letter concerning your son. Sir, for any favour I can doe you, either in this or any other, I shall be right willing, knowing how much from time to time I and mine are bounden unto you. And assure your selfe it shall be no trouble unto me to use the best of my counsell and care over him. For his apparell, it will keepe him warme, I know, which is the principall thing I aime at, and I hope pleasing to him & his friends. The other money I shall deliver him as I shall see good both for himselfe to use, & the credit of you his father. Moreover (Sir) he is to me very dutifull and loving, by which he shall losse nothing in my care of his welfare, & he very well spends his time at Schoole, and to good purpose I hope: wherein I doubt not you shall have great comfort. He behaveth himselfe so well by his good demeaner to all, that he is generally beloved of all my neighbors. For my power and authority over him, I will imploy my selfe onely for his good, and your fatherly care commited to me. And so with a thousand commendations I commit you to God.

Your friend.

I. D.

A Letter to his Mistris in the Country that desired newes from the Citie.

MOst excellent Mistris, your command (which is to me a law) binds me to obey you, and though the taske be infinite hard to containe so great a beast in so little paper, yet for your satisfaction, I will delineate to life the proportion

proportion of some of his members. It is newes you desire & beleeve me (faire one) since I came into the City, I have not seene or heard any thing old: even for the Capitoll to the Cottage, all things are in their new garments, the Court hath new favourites, the City a new Senate, and the common-wealth new officers: the first are as great as good, the second are as rich as wise, and the third as awefull as just. Men are new, for where they should love they feare, women are new, for where they should honour they subdue, and children are new, for where they should reverence they astonish, Customes and manners are new, for the poore daily feed the rich, the rich cozen the great, and the great makes fooles of the good ones. The fashions though they were never old, are now newer then ever, for in man or woman there is not a point to chuse betwixt the seres, the one hath descended so much downeward, and the other ascended so much upward, that met in one circle, they are both now trussed up together without difference: Apparell that was made to cover, is now make to discover folly and lewdnesse, and they are finest that are nearest to the naked Anatomy: Discourse is new, for wise men talke of their wealth, learned men of their deceit, and great men of vanity. Old men like old Wolves boast of their prayes past, middle age like Lyons talke of that which is in their powers, & children like dogges barke of the revenges which shall be: our Citizens like Asses, are proud of rich burthens, and like Apes, joy in pyde trapping, and our gallants like Beere-brewers horses bragge how much drinke they can carry. To conclude, all things are so new, that even vertue her selfe is disguised in old garments, and he that keepeth any phrase of his fore-fathers, is but a rude speaker, for to say Hic mulier, is now the purest and truest Latine. Thus (my deare Mistresse) you have the newest Newes of the season, which I write rather to keepe you in your old way of vertue, then to lose your selfe in the folly of imitation. I know your goodnesse, and how true a re-

warder it is of its owne merits, relie upon it ever, it will make your end happy and my life fortunate, that am the servant of so great a perfection.

T.F.

Her Answer.

YOu have sent me (worthy servant) my desire back with so great an interest, that I stand two wayes fearefull how to receive it, either to incurre the suspicion of too grædy an inquiry, or the envy of a weake nature, that is pleased with detraction: frō both which I am free, in as much as my aime is held within the levell of modesty. I confesse, the parts you have given me may belong to a beast, or rather a Monster, for the shape hath little proportion: yet I have heard of excellent Painters which have made curious peeces of perspective, that beheld with a liberall eie on the plaine Table, hath appeared ugly & most deformed, but the sight strained and drawne into a more severe & narrow cōpasse, it hath beene beautifull, and in the glory of the best perfection: such, I feare, was the picture from whom you tooke your copy, and looking upon it the wrong way, you saw the lines, but not the beauty. I doe confesse, the world is old, yet not so old but I may continue to weare out many new garments. Age makes it subject to sicknes and infirmity, and what better defence then warme and sound cloathing? Sickneſſe brings corruption, and ill savours, what better prevention then much shift and many new things? so that I conclude these novelties which you dislike are but to cure something in the world that is unwholsome. Again I have seene an Italian Comedy, consisting of a lover, a woman, a zany, or foole, & a divell, & to it I may fashion the world, for that is the stage, the people the actors, each degree have their zany and their divell; Now if the zany will steal his masters apparell, and make betweene vice & vertue no

difference

difference, blame not the diſcretion of the maſter, if it deviſe new fashions, till either the fooliſh zany be tryed, or the devill for his pride fetch him away, and conclude the enterlude. This (my beſt ſervant) you may apply at your pleaſure, for mine innocence hath taught me that charity, not to accuſe any of that crime I would not my ſelfe be guilty, nor is my defence and argument to draw on your ſilence: but rather a motive to make you more liberall, in beſtowing on me the reſt of your collections: in which doubt not my conſtancy, ſince no inchantments can make me forget to preſerve my ſelfe ever worthy to be your Miſtris.

M.S.

A wooing and comfortable letter to a noble widow that had newly loſt her husband.

THough (my noble widow) I am the laſt that ſend you comfort, yet was I the firſt that felt your anguiſh, and will be the readieſt of all men to ſerve you in your trouble: you have loſt a dearely deſired husband, & found an infinite way to griefe, the one is the act of Nature, & cannot be prevented, the other is the worke of Nature, and by wiſedome muſt be corrected: Remember (faire widow) who is gone (a good man) to whom he is gone (to a good God) and from whom (from the wicked world, and worſe people) and you ſhall find more cauſe to praiſe heaven for his happines, then to murmure for your loſſe of comfort; a good man dies to live, there is your joy, an ill man lives to die, there is true anguiſh: the joyes of marriage ſhould be writ in Table-bookes, not upon paper, that Widowes might blot and rubbe out the writing, for they ought not to remember the delights paſt, but to meditate on pleaſure to come, not to marry for eternity, but during the will of heaven, neither

have you lost any thing, for he was but a treasure lent you. and to grieve at the repatment were to wrong your goodnesse with ingratitude. Beleeve me Madame, were your care in my hands, as your griefe is at my heart, neither should your anguish hurt you, nor the memory of your losse survive a moment, but it is in heaven and your wisedome, couple them together by yeelding to providence, and you shall see you comforts flow upon you in a new tide, you have reputed me your friend, and shaped your best actions by my counsels, you were never more weake then now because alone, nor did you ever stand in more need, because many assaults are prepared against you: to keep you then in perfect safety, please you make me of a tryed friend, a true husband, of a faithfull Counseller, a profitable Ruler, and of an able helpe a devout servant. I doubt not but you shall finde that armor against all necessities, which shall both guard you against injuries, and bring you much honour; my character you know best, for I am no stranger, and my zeale you may judge by my former services, if they appeare faultlesse before you, there will be no let but ceremony, which to countinance against vertue, were to be guilty of foule superstition: you are wise, and that wisedome I make my advocate, if he approve me worthy to be yours, my faith shall make me your truest servant among the living.

F.R.

Her Answer.

SIR, had the comfort you sent me come in a true wedding garment, pure and one intire stuffe: I could not have chosen but received it as the rest of your chast counsels, and feasted on it with my daily meditation, but being so disorderly pacht, I can neither believe it is yours, nor affect that which is so uncomely. You have sent me delicate

gilt

gilt pils, where though the gold be more then the poison yet is this poison enough to confound. Therefore as much as with safety I may retaine (for your ancient friendship) I will keepe and study, the rest pardon me to returne you, not out of malice to your wish, but griefe at your folly, you have told me so well the excellency of my losse, that it were madnesse in me to run into a second hazard, and how ever you would take from widdowes the blisse of remembrance, yet deare Sir, know that I can never forget this maxime, That the death of a good husband ought not to take away the love of a chast wife. To conclude, what you desire is not in my power to grant, for all my love I have sent with him to the grave whom I have lost: and to hold me without that portion, were to grasp a cloud that would bring forth a centaur, yet from thence should either Fate or my follies deliver it, I could not find any more worthy then your selfe to keepe it: but the first is too constant, and the latter (I hope) shall never so farre rule in me: Therefore being as you were, a chast counsellour, and no seducer, you shall finde me, as you have done, a faithfull cabinet full of your goodnesse.

E.L.

Another to the same purpose.

Much honoured Mistris.

THe never ceasing streame of your gracious goodnesses hath by the often thinking of their due deserv̄ings profoundly imbosomed themselves in my gratefull affection, which no course of tedious time can extenuate, nor the longest absence by distance have power to diminish. But oh most kind meriter of all respect, whose good will I estimate as my greatest enrichment, although the condigne requitall of such your rare courtesies lie not in the compasse

and

and precinct of my poore power, whose tenuity is not able to pay such an exceeding tribute: yet how willing my mind is, and how in extinguishable my desires, this illitterall Epistle will testifie, which devoyd of elegancies, yet full fraught with the unfeigned profession of my love, promiseth the imployment of my uttermost powers in all serviceable endeavours, if all that I can doe may but defray one mite of your invaluable courtesies. Command my service, there is not any thing so great that I will shrinke, or so small that I will disdaine to effectuate for your sake, having vowed to dye before any word issuing from your lips shall come in vaine.

But lest I should detract too much time from your more serious affaires, in all humility I take my leave.

Yours unfainedly.

A.B.

The Answer.

THough I am far from vanity to esteeme my selfe worthy of the style of beauty, yet I see not how to excuse your sinister opinion, that would thereto anner so great an inconvenience: for it seemes (if things might be ordered by your mind) you would have beauty and love to be inseparable companions: oh grosse, oh absurd wish, and most execrable position against beauty and love. Then any vicious, deformed or beggerly creature, being but conducted by good fortune to the view of some rare Virgin, this unworthinesse must not onely be entertained, but he that rather deserved to be hissed away with disdaine, must straight be made the owner and Lord of her love: Nor shall it be in her power to give a repulse to the presumption of indigne suitors, or to make free election of a deserving personage, to honour him with her gratious favour.

But

But I hope Sir, being thus clearely convinced, you will confeſſe and make recantation of your erroꝛ, I reſt as I have reaſon.

Yours not to uſe.
S.M.

A letter of diſcontent after the falling out of Lovers.

Moſt diſcourteous and painted friend.

IT is the cuſtome of Lovers after the breach of their league and amity, to ſend back thoſe gratuities, which formerly paſſed as tokens of their naturall affections: you have taken up the faſhion, and beleeve me I abhorre any longer to have nearneſſe with one of your qualification, who for meere trifles can diſſolve the knot of friendſhip, & ſhake hands with familiarity. For know that your memory which was ſometime deare in my thoughts, is now abhorred, ſeeing that the firmneſſe and ſtability of affection, (then which there is nothing ought by men more religiouſly to be obſerved) you have ſo cauſeleſſly brought to annihilation. I may parallel my preſent condition to the ſtate of the Sunne when pitchy clouds with inviroming him round about, ſeeme to extinguiſh his ſplendor, but time the perfecter of all terreſtiall things, may in due ſeaſon impart a luſtre correſpondent to my hopes, and ſutable to my diſpoſition: till when I will ſcorne the blaſts of adverſity, and all thoſe who having little or no merit, are endowed by the diſpenſation of the Owle-eyd goodneſſe Fortune with large poſſeſſions: however if I can find no better to converſe and ſpend my time withall then your ſelfe, I will turne Momus, and for ever hate the ſociety of men: but having a better opinion of the generality, for your part I caſhiere you with this Ultimum vale and reſt,

A ſtranger B. C.

To his angry Mistris.

As the declining of the Sunne brings a generall darknesse and discomfort, so the deficiency and absence of your shining and glorious favours hath over covered me with clouds of care. But as the Suns heavenly essence by the course of Nature is daily revived, so here I humbly sue that your wonted gracious respect may returne in your countenance, to solace the doubtfull heart of your servant with vicissitude of long intermitted alacritie, it will redound to your great commendation, when the world shall understand that your heart is of ware, not inerorable and of a flinty and adamantine constitution, hoping that you will be as ready compassionatly to grant as I doe submissively implore the renovation of your love, I rest.

Yours in unutterable
affection.
R.S.

A letter from an apprentice in London, to his Father in the Country.

My humble duty remembred good Father unto you and my mother. Having the opportunity of this bearer, I thought good to certifie you of my present being, giving you to understand that I am, I thanke God and you, in good health, and very well placed here in London, where I am in hope to continue my here being to some profitable and good purpose: My Master useth me in good sort, and I want nothing that appertaines to such a one as my selfe. I trust you shall have joy of me, and ere a few yeares passe, I doubt not but so to behave my selfe that I shall well deserve

deſerve this good liking that already I have of my Maſter, and further credit at his hands and imployment about his buſineſſe. I hope you and my mother and all our friends in the country are in good health, I pray you that you will write unto my maſter as occaſion ſerveth and thanke him for his good uſage; and if you can to remember him with ſome good conſenient thing out of the country. Thus deſiring your daily bleſſings, and with a recommendation of my humble duty unto you both, I take my leave:

London. Your loving and obedient ſonne to command.

G.H.

A letter from a Husband to his Wife.

GOod wife, conſidering the haſty departure from you, and my children, my hope is that you will have that loving and reſpective care toward them and your family that appertaineth. I have left many things raw by reaſon of the ſuddenneſſe of my journey, which ſtand upon your good regard to be ordered, as namely the charge of my ſervants, and the diſpoſition of ſome other affaires and buſineſſes. You ſhall now ſhew your ſelfe a diſcreet and carefull wife, if in my abſence you will take upon you to be in my place. Regard and conſider with your ſelfe, that ſervants are negligent and careleſſe, and if the maſter forget his owne profit, they are as ready as others to ſhare with his gaines. Your painfull attendance to over-looke them, ſhall ſtraine their labours to my uſing, your deſire to ſee to them, ſhall worke their uſing to my well-deſerving. You muſt now a little forget neighbourhood, and walking for company, conſidering the old proverb, that when the Cat

is away, the House will goe play: If Master or Dame have both continued absence, servants fall a wasting, and doe what they list. You know good wife, I have now taken a great charge of late upon me, which with some carefull looking to may turne to good. Let it not be grievous unto you, nor thinke it hard that I thus make you partaker of my charge, as I doe of my profit, for we are yoakefellowes you know, and the charge is equall betwixt us both to be borne and supported. If as loving mates and fellowes we draw forth together, we shall by Gods blessed goodnesse see thefruits of our labours: our children shall participate with us of our travells, and God shall prosper our endeavours. And howbeit good wife I have ever found you such, as of whose care of my well doing I need have no doubt, yet if by the importance of my charge I be driven to write thus much unto you, thinke that in great trust of your modesty, respect of your love, and zeale to both our goods I have done the same. And though no distrust remaine of any one about me, yet doe I put you in minde what youth by too much sufferance and giving of libertie may be inclined to. This is all I would, and so much I hope as you gladly will hold unto. Commend me many times unto your selfe, Kisse my little ones, and remember me, and commend my love to all our friends. From Rye the 3 of Febr. 1645.

Your assured loving husband.

F.G.

Her Answer.

GOod husband, I am glad you have at last remembred your selfe by this bearer to write unto me, that have thought it very long untill I heard from you. I doe greatly rejoyce at the good and prosperous successe of your journey, and

and chiefly, that you have indured your travell so well, being in good plight and strength of body, as I understand you are by your Letter. We are much beholding unto our good friends in the country that have given you so great & good entertainment, and I pray you heartily commend me unto them. Your businesse here goeth very well, and your servants both dutifull and diligent about their affaires, and we have no want but your presence, which if you would hasten hitherward, it were a comfort unto us all to see you, having beene as to me it seemeth, very long absent. But Master Prince, and his friends where you are, useth you so kindly, that I thinke you cannot well tell how to winde your selfe out from their good company. Yet good husband remember that at last you must come home, and the sooner the better. I referre all to your good discretion: and so commend me most heartily unto you. From London.

Your ever loving and
loyall wife.
R.G.

A letter from one kinsman to another in London or any other place.

My good Cousin, I am glad to heare of your good preferment in London, and that, as I heare by your father and mother, you are so well placed there, and with so good a Master. It is no little comfort to me to understand that you doe so resolutely and with so good a minde dispose your selfe to your businesse, which I gladly wish you would continue. You must now remember, that your friends with great care, charge and industry have brought you up, and that their intent and meaning therein was, that in expectation thereof they should have joy and comfort of you in

your elder yeares: for which as you have now bequeathed your selfe to this place of service, so must you for any fear of hard usage, bitternes of speech, or other mislike of taunts or rebukes, make account to endure and continue. It may be, being yet unacquainted with the customes and usage of London, you doe now thinke well of that which hereafter may turne to discontentment. But good cousin, so be it you have no want of things needfull and necessary, frame your selfe to forbeare all those crosse matters whatsoever, and give your selfe wholly on Gods name, to the benefit of your service, you shall therein want no help, furtherance, or incouragement on my part, and if you performe it well and honestly, you shall not want when time serveth for an hundred pound or two, if in the meane space I may see your good care of your Masters businesse, & please your Mistris, for therein you shall the better please your Master. Your friends are all well. Who rejoycing in that already they see you so well behaved, doe daily pray to God to prosper & blesse you: and thus with my hearty commendations I bid you farewell. Frandon this 18. of May 1646.

Your loving kinsman,

W.W.

A letter to request the borrowing of an hundred Pounds

SIR, I am bold in my great necessity, under assurance of your forwardnesse to doe me good, to intreat your speciall aide & furtherance in two things, the one whereof is to lend me of your wonted favours one hundred pounds, the other this bearer shall instruct you in, both which consist in your kinde and friendly care of my well doing, I am of opinion none other then your selfe can fit the occasion better,

better. And truly such is the force of imprisonment as contrary to that you have wontedly knowne in me, my understanding is quite decayed, and sore wearie with want of liberty, and where the spirits are so distuned, it must needes follow, the memory must needes sound nothing but discord. In fine, Sir, it is in you to doe me good, and to make me by this onely action for ever beholden unto you, wherein if I may so far forth presume of your fidelity, assure your selfe if ever God give me liberty, to none so much as you shall I be vaked in curtesie. Good master I B. the matter hereof requireth some haste. whereto I must heartily intreat you faile me not.

Fare yee well this 18. of December. 1645.

Your imprisoned friend.
I.S.

The Answer.

GOod Master I. S. needlesse it were you should entreat me in that wherein you have found me most willing, & such whom with small perswasion you may induce to a far greater purpose then what in your last letter is required, the messenger I have appointed to returne againe to my chamber to morrow morning, at which time I will not faile to send you your desired summe: for the other, hard will it be for me to accomplish that wherein your selfe seemes so imperfect, for that the dullest conceit forged from the most distempered of your imaginations cannot but sound far better tunes then the ripest of mine inventions any way are able to deliver. Nevertheless such as it is, or (by dislike of your owne) you have will to account of, that will I prepare to your view, and put forward to your good speede, thinking it better by the delivery of a grosse debtor to satisfie the demand of a friend, then by the concealing the simplicity thereof, to be censured uncourteous. In conclusion,

it

it is lawfull for you to use me to the uttermost, and fittest to your confirmed league of amitie, that in whatsoever you should imploy me: wherein I desire you conceive no more then such as I intend to become, and you shall assuredly finde me,

Your faithfull friend.

I.P.

A letter to his friend for breach of promise.

MAster Jackson, I have abstained hitherto to come or send unto you, partly being wearied with importunity, for that I thought, now two moneths being passed, I might in this space have found a time convenient wherein to have ended with you. Having taken this cause in hand, I would (as in good reason I thought it fit) you should determine with me upon some conclusions whereon to rest assured, I might thenceforth know whereto to trust and neither waste labour in comming to so small purpose, nor hinder my certaine businesse by the unsteady stay of your affaires, as already I have done. We have talked many times, and set downe certaine limits, but to slender effects, as I know neither when to demand, nor you how to satisfie. So that depending upon shadowes, I have passed my time to small benefit, and you have gone forward to little purpose. I doe pray you therefore that such meaning may assure us, as already betweene us hath beene performed. To delay me thus with nifles, as I thinke is farre from a Gentleman, so I suppose you doe not intend it considering how many waies thereby I am and shall be hindred. This therefore may be the certaine meanes to satisfie us both, that you will (as on Fryday last you promised) come and see the agreement betweene us performed, where-

of

of I pray you advertise your full resolution by this bearer: And so I bid you heartily farewell.

Arthingworth, May 7. 1646.

Your ever assured loving friend.

W.M.

The answer.

GOod master W.M. my breach of promise in not having visited you with deserved requitall sithence my departure may breed suspicion & doubt of unthankfulnesse, but I hope, and by hope presume, that of your owne good disposition towards all your acquaintance, you will yeeld unto an approved triall before you condemne. For my part if I should not owe unto you all honest mind and fidelity, I should much contrary your great curtesie, and deservedly incurre the shame of ingratitude. You know that having strayed as I have done out of the limits of a controuled rule, and displeased so much thereby, as my case hath bewrayed unto you, those whom by nature and duty I ought to be awed unto. It is reason that by the more strict observance, I make amends for the residue. The day appointed I will not faile to meet to view the writings, and to make some conclusion to your best satisfaction. Wherein you shall perceive the honest mind of a Gentleman. My Father it seemeth, though not yet by me, hath otherwise understood how much I stand yoked (in all friendly leagus of amity) unto you and thinketh himselfe for all his sonnes unthriftinesse, somewhat therein to be tyed unto you. His meaning is, one of these dates to intreat your pains hitherward. But howsoever deserts be noted, or care by nature doth binde, assure your selfe, whilest life leadeth along this earthly course, I am and will be also yours most unfainedly and most in-

tirely. To whom and to your good bedfellow, I mast heartily and often commend me: Thindon June 28. 1646.

Remaining your much bounden friend
in all good affection, I.D.

To his friend a Mercer.

DEare Sir, many salutations, &c. As my occasions fall out I still presume to trouble you, grounding my boldnesse upon the hope of your love and good will, I request you to send me as much black Sattin as will make me a Sute. I am your debter already, besides in good will and love, a small summe, which for that it hath beene long detained, you may conjecture it to be desperate: yet on my credit it is as sure as any mony in your purse: My intent being honest, but my store not such as at this time I can satisfie: next Terme I expect the plenty of my purse will be so profuse, that God permitting, without faile for these and the old debt you shall be fully discharged. Acknowledging my selfe beholden, I rest,

Your thankefull friend, T.G.

A letter to an unfaithfull friend.

SIR, I have ever beene so loath to thinke ill of you that I scarce allow mine owne witnesse against you, or those strong presumptions that make me thinke you meane to keep no promises nor no friends: if you will needs have it so, let our acquaintance now grow sickly, and die privately, lest I be blamed for trusting, and you for deceiving so great a trust. For since our love is growen into so desperate

a Lethargie, I will not wake it, for I had rather it should passe away in a trance, and the remembrance thereof never hereafter to be mentioned. What your friendship was I cannot tell, but I am assured to the view it was at best greater courtesies then I required: what mine owne was, judge when you have most need of a friend. Neither will I tell you what a sea of mis-fortune your breach of promises hath let in upon me: but Ile bid you now and ever farewell, and with my letter conclude all rites of love betwixt you and me, and rest,

No longer your friend F.G.

A letter for admittance into service.

HOnourable Sir, I have ever beene so addicted to follow you, that in mine owne opinion I am an old retainer of yours: so I am within a degree of a houshold servant, which is all the promotion that by the intercession of this Letter I strive to come to. But I see so many steps directed that way, that I perhaps may come too late, yet I hope your number is not full, though it be great, and I suppose all are not invited that goe: but some intrude. I will take it for extreame bounty to be admitted within your gates: what I doe is prest by no necessity, but to save my longing, and to satisfie my desires, which a farre off have ever served you. Once I thought to have moved this suit by friends, but that way I was afraid it might miscarry: and I was not very willing it should succeed, being loath to intangle my selfe in oblations to other men, when I was to passe my selfe over unto you. so I thought best to write, for to speake had been too bold. So in hope at the least of a pardon, I rest as farre as in no les,

Your humble servant,
P.G.

To his love upon a long and fruitlesse affection.

IT is the property of none but of a faint-hearted souldier for receiving a repulse or two to retire from assault and to give over his enterprize: when every one ought to use constant perseverance, that he may worke the accomplishment of his desires. The long unsuccessfulnesse of my suit hath not made me weary of your service, though since I first fell in love with you (O might the examples incite you no longer to retard your affection) the Sun hath gone about the world, and given a new life to all things which the tempestuous winter had left forlorne: the joyfull Merchant hath made a rich returne, and the laborious husbandman hath crammed his barnes with the plentious crop of the ever fruitfull earth: Every one hath his hope, onely my selfe more unfortunate then all the rest, in the revolution of time have not had any successe. I am you see peerelesse in misfortune: it rests in you with the sympathy of affection to make me peerelesse in felicity, of which I will never despaire, there being no heart that is more infinitely affected toward you then the heart of

Your truest servant E.G.

To his sweet-heart in the Country.

Sole Mistris of my affection.

THough in London where I now am many singular beauties are daily obvious to my sight, yet I beseech you not to charge my unfained lines with flattery, if in the just collaudation of your owne unparalleld pulchritude I prefer your unmatchable forme before the rarest of their compositures: Their formosities comes as far short of yours

as the splendor of the twinkling Stars comes short of the all enlightning radiance of the Sun-beames, and they all are as far your inferiors in the ravishing gifts of Nature, as the vilipended pipple is inferior to the worth of the most high prized Carbuncle. To which outward endowments when I revolve in my mind (and no hour passeth without commemoration of your perfections) how sweetly you have united all internall graces, then am I distracted with grief for my absence, and though my unrestrained mind be inseparably with you, yet I curse the distance of place which deprives me of all comfort, because it disjoynes me from your presence, which till I enjoy, all joy is banished out of my brest, and I have given griefe a free dominion in me, I cannot say I rest, but I remaine,

Your entire vassal. E.G.

A Young mans letter to his enamoured Mistris.

Fairest of a Thousand.

IF you were not absolute, I would not be thus resolute onely to love you whom I hold onely worthy loving; your beauty tells mine ete, and your kindnesse perswades my heart of your goodnesse, for, if you were proud, I should disdaine you, and if you were not faire, I would not affect you, now, if you know the one true in your selfe, believe the other in me, and wrong not your selfe, in not doing me right: Modesty and niceneſſe are two, and delaies are the hinderances of happinesse: to urge your patience with importunity I will not, and yet to give over my suit I cannot: and therefore knowing your judgement sufficient to understand your owne good, I hope to finde your disposition not inclined to hurt him, who remaineth.

Yours as you will, and
when you will, T.D.

Her kinde answer.

MY worthy friend, how long I have loved you, was from the first instant that I beheld you: how much I doe love you, I would I could tell you; how dearely I will love you, my best endeavours shall truly make known unto you: and if under heaven I may find such happinesse on the earth as to be regarded in your favour, I will thinke it title that figures earthly felicity: for your excellence, being almost without exception, let my love be without comparison, and if truth may have beliefe, let my affection be without suspition: and as you have won my heart with your eies, make it happy with your hands, so hoping that so sweet an aspect can have no sowernesse in spirit, in the hope of your kinde answer, I rest.

Yours devoted to be commanded.
A.B.

A Letter of requeſt.

KInd friend: I would intreat a kindnesse but for feare of a denial, not out of mine owne deserts, but rather your disposition, which I doubt is too neare the nature of the world, rather to grant then to gratifie: excuses are more trialls of wit then truth, & a faithfull heart hath no stop in love, and therefore, that I may not have cause to wrong my selfe in my assured confidence of your worth, doe right to your selfe in the good of that performance, that, without parenthesis may conclude in a full point of kindnesse. The substance of my suit I have sent you by word of mouth, because my hand-writing shall not witnesse my unhappinesse if my hope should faile the expectation of my affection, in which without greater care of the contrary, I rest,

Yours as you know, D.S.

A letter of discontent, upon a deniall of a request.

My small friend,

I Thanke you for nothing more then that I have nothing to thanke you for, wherein you rather considered what I am, then your selfe should be: pardon my folly, in presuming above knowledge, and beleeve me no more if I fall into the like error of opinion: you willed me to make account of your uttermost power, in my good: It may be it was in wishes, which are easily requited, but when they are voyde of effects, they are but troubles to reason: I cannot spell without Letters, nor understand words without substance, therefore loath to be tedious, when I have unwillingly beene troublesome, I pray you let complements be without cost, so shall kindnesse continue in that condition of judgement that shall make me alwaies ready to requite your deniall of my request as I finde cause.

Your friend to command, C. D.

To a Court Lady.

IF love could dissemble patience could have no passion, but truth is so tyed to affection, that as a sound limbe it cannot halt. If you aske the reason of my affection, looke into the excellency of your owne worth, and then if there be any extreame, take it in the best part, which groweth from your selfe: for such is my judgement of your deserving, as can be answered in nothing but in admiring: for surely, he must be either very dim sighted that doth not preferre your beauty to all shadowes, or dull witted that understands not the honour of your worthinesse. Give me leave then, out of the sight of my best sense, and sense of my best

best sight, to devote my service to your command, that may give a happinesse to your employment: and while idle Complements are but Court fashions, let plaine truth have such acceptance in your favour, that suspicion may not wrong a true affection: in which I vow ever to rest,

Yours all, or mine owne not at all.

D.P.

Her Complementall Answer.

WHat words shall I use to win your affection, holding under heaven my happinesse but in your love: if travell would please you in your affaires, I would never rest but in your favour: if gifts might be graciously accepted, I would give you my selfe for your love: if pitty might move you, I would lay before you my passion: if my death might onely answer your desire, I would not live to despaire of your comfort: but love being a spirit of that nature that onely is pleased in being himselfe, I will leave all my hopes to that happy houre, wherein he may in your eies cast those blessed beames of favour, upon the faith of my heart, that may make me in the infringible bond of devoted service to the last period of my life,

Yours wholly and onely to be commanded, S.D.

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